Disaster Management in various States have been created for undertaking disaster reduction activities including providing disaster knowledge network under the aegis of DAC. The Department also extends support of NGOs and other organization of public awareness and community participation activities under a Central Sector Scheme on Natural Disaster Management Programme. A website *(www.ndmindia.nicin)* has also been created by DAC for dissemination of information relating to Natural Disaster management. The Department of Science & Technology has also supported several training courses related to public awareness programmes.

Seismology Research Centre in Gujarat

2874. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering setting up an advanced centre for Seismology Research in Gujarat, as an autonomous institute under the Department of Science & Technology for research and region specific data and activities, using new technologies;

(b) if so, what is the project cost and the pattern of financing;

(c) whether the Institute would be useful in mitigation loss of human life and property against earthquakes in future in the country; and

(d) by when the Institute is expected to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) to (d) Sir, a proposal has been received from the Government of Gujarat for setting up of a Seismological Research Institute. an Expert Group was constituted to concretize the proposal and work out the details. The Expert Group has completed its deliberations.